

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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For Release to FMs, Friday, October 16, 1970

### NOTED TEXAS CONSERVATIONIST HONORED BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Secretary Walter J. Hickel has announced that the Department of the Interior's Conservation Service Award, highest honor that can be granted a non-employee, is being bestowed posthumously on M. Armand Yramategui, noted Texas conservationist.

"The Department's highest award for outstanding contributions to the cause of conservation is but one of many given in recognition of Mr. Yramategui's distinguished leadership in improving the environment," Secretary Hickel said. "No challenge in the field of conservation was too great for his many talents."

Secretary Hickel said Mr. Yramategui's career was marked by a series of impressive conservation successes. He fought for the Padre Island National Seashore, the Texas Open Beaches Law, a submerged land bill to prevent pollution and destruction of coastal fish and shell habitat, stronger air and water pollution control legislation, for the establishment of many parks and scenic areas in Texas and elsewhere in the United States, and for safeguarding endangered species of wildlife.

At the time of his death last January, Mr. Yramategui was curator of the Burke Baker Planetarium of the Houston Museum of Natural History. He also was president of the Texas Conservation Council, past president of the Texas Ornithological Society, and was the first vice president to be chosen by the Houston Chapter of the National Audubon Society. He was a consultant to the Houston-Galveston Area Council in planning parks for an eight-county area. He also was a life member of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club. His last major activity centered on the campaign to establish the Big Thicket National Monument in Texas.

The Conservation Service Award for Mr. Yramategui will be presented to his mother, Mrs. Marie Yramategui, 3706 Richmond Avenue, Houston.

A copy of Secretary Hickel's letter to Mrs. Yramategui is attached.

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Marie Yramategui  
3706 Richmond Avenue  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mrs. Yramategui:

I am most pleased to grant the Department of the Interior's Conservation Service Award to your son, the late Mr. Armand Yramategui, for his unselfish dedication and inspiring leadership to preserve wildlands and wildlife and to improve man's environment.

Armand was one of Texas' best known environmentalist, conservationist, and naturalist. At the forefront of many conservation battles, Armand will be remembered most for his tireless effort on behalf of the Padre Island National Seashore and the Texas Open Beach Law. He was instrumental in the establishment of many other parks and wildlife sanctuaries. He inspired and guided many of the conservation laws passed by the Texas Legislature. Armand's life was devoted to the betterment of mankind's physical and spiritual environment. We all owe this man our pledge to vigorously pursue his conservation goals and to make America a truly quality environment for all men.

As a tribute to your son, it gives me great pleasure to present, posthumously, this award to Armand Yramategui in recognition of his outstanding contribution to conservation.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior